REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-56 are pending. Claims 1-56 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 15, 18, 29, 32, 43, and 46 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Anesko et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,717,960 ("Anesko"). The Examiner stated that

> In regarding to claim 1, 15, 29 and 43, Anesko teaches processing at least one control unit to retrieve communication link in a network (Column 4 Line 31-49); storing said at least one control unit in at least one buffer (Column 4 Line 36-37); and processing said at least one control unit to retrieve link information related to said at least one communication link (Column 4 Line 50-66).

(p. 2, Office Action 6/4/04) Anesko discloses that

> Turning to FIGS. 2 and 3, a method according to the invention for reconstructing the aggregate ATM cell stream 19 using the IMA device 11 is now described. The method begins (Block 20) after a first ICP cell has been received by the processor 17 from each of the communication links 14. The ICP cells received from a given communication link are stored in respective FIFOs 16. The processor 17 then determines a respective link delay for each of the communication links 14, including determining a fastest and a slowest communication link, as shown at Block 21. The processor 17 determines a current cell offset value and a current frame value for the last IMA cell received on each link. This determination is preferably made within a one cell period so that the LDD calculations will be accurate to within one cell period. Knowing the current cell offset and frame values allows the processor 17 to determine how many IMA cells have been received since the transmission began, and thereby determine the relative link delays of each of the communication links 14.

(Anesko, Column 4 Lines 31-49) Anesko also discloses that

> After the link delays are determined, the processor 17 compares each link delay to the link delay for the fastest communication link to determine the LDD therebetween, as seen at Block 22. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the LDDs may also be calculated with reference to other communication links, including the slowest communication link. As noted above, the IMA standards require that a LDD or threshold of 25 milliseconds must be accommodated, although the receiving IMA device 11 of the present invention

> may accommodate thresholds of 300 milliseconds or more. The processor 17 then compares the LDD for each communication link 14 to the desired threshold to determine if the LDD for the communication link is greater than the threshold, as shown at Block 27. If so, the processor 17 generates a signal instructing the transmitting IMA device 13 to remove the communication link 14 from the IMA group, as shown at Block 28.

(Anesko, Column 4 Lines 50-66) Anesko also discloses that

> The transmitting IMA device 13 periodically transmits ICP cells that include information used to reconstruct the aggregate ATM cell stream at the receiving IMA device 11.

(Anesko, Column 3 Line 60-62) Anesko also discloses that

> Furthermore, the cells are transmitted in frames, and if the first IMA control protocol (ICP) cell received on a link is missing or corrupted, the LDD computation will be in error by a frame for that link.

(Anesko, Column 1 Lines 62-63) Anesko also discloses that

> The ICP cells divide the aggregate ATM cell stream 19 into frames, which are defined by the IMA Specification as a number M of consecutive IMA cells (numbered 0 to M-1) transmitted on each of the communication links in an IMA group. An IMA group is the group of communication links used for transmitting IMA cells. All of the links in an IMA group are typically of the same type. The transmitting IMA device 13 aligns transmission of the cells on each of the links in a cyclical or round-robin fashion. Each ATM cell has a corresponding frame value and an offset value within the frame (i.e., a cell offset value).

(Anesko, Column 3 Line 63-Column 4 Line 6) Anesko also discloses that

> The method also includes filling a respective delay compensation buffer with corresponding cells for each of the communication links beginning with the common starting cell and reading the cells from the delay compensation buffers in a round-robin fashion to reconstruct the aggregate stream of cells.

(Anesko, Column 2 Line 32-36) Anesko also discloses that

> The communication links 14 may be T1, E1, or J1 links, for example, although other links may be used as well.

(Anesko, Column 3 Lines 53-54)

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended is not anticipated by Anesko under 35 U.S.C. 102§(e). Amended claim 1 includes the following limitations:

> A method comprising:

processing at least one control unit to retrieve communication information related to data received along at least one communication link in a network, the communication information including frame delineation information and delay information;
storing said at least one control unit in at least one buffer; and
processing said at least one control unit to retrieve link information related to said at least one communication link, the link information including at least one of link status information, link transmission order information, and state machine information.

(Amended claim 1) (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that Anesko does not include the limitation processing a control unit to retrieve frame delineation information. Frame delineation information is described in the specification at paragraphs 30 and 31. Anesko discloses communication information which includes delay information (see Anesko, col. 4, lines 31 – 49), but does not disclose frame delineation information as claimed.

Further, Anesko fails to disclose the limitation of processing a control unit to retrieve link information that includes link status information, link transmission order information, or state machine information. Anesko discloses determining differential delay and then comparing the determined differential delay to a threshold (see Anesko, col. 4, lines 50 – 66).

For these reasons applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended is not anticipated by Anesko. Given that claims 2 – 14, depend, directly or indirectly from claim 1, applicants submit that claims 2 – 14 are, likewise, not anticipated by Anesko.

Given that claims 15, 29, and 43 include the limitations of processing a control unit to retrieve frame delineation information and link information that includes link status information, link transmission order information, or state machine information, applicants respectfully submit that claims 15, 29, and 43 are not anticipated by Anesko. Further, given that claims 16 – 28, and claims 30 – 42, and claims 44 - 56 depend, directly or indirectly from claims 15, 29, and 43, respectively, applicants submit that claims 16 – 28, 30 – 42, and 44 - 56 are, likewise, not anticipated by Anesko.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 10/4/04 By: _____

Tom Van Zandt
Reg. No. 43,219

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8300